

10/025.105
60130-1201; 01MRA0360**REMARKS**

Claims 13 and 14 are allowed. Claim 24 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that the claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 24 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of base claim 15.

Claims 1 and 15-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Muzio (U.S. Patent No. 6,123,342). Claim 17 has been cancelled. Muzio does not disclose a vehicle suspension system including a band and a bushing both contacting a stabilizer bar that interact to prevent lateral movement of the stabilizer bar. Muzio discloses a stabilizing bar 2 connected to a vehicle body 5 by a connecting member 4. An annular pad 7 made of an elastomeric material surrounds the stabilizing bar 2, and an anti-friction sleeve 8 is inserted inside the annular pad 7. As shown in Figures 1 and 2, the anti-friction sleeve 8 contacts the stabilizing bar 2, and the annular pad 7 does not contact the stabilizing bar 2. That is, the anti-friction sleeve 8 prevents the annular pad 7 from contacting the stabilizing bar 2. In the claimed invention, both the band and the bushing contact the stabilizer bar. Muzio does not anticipate the claimed invention, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Thus, claims 1-28 are in condition for allowance. Claims 2-12 and 18-23 depend on generic claims 1 and 15 and are also allowable. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C. \$122.00 (\$36.00 for two additional dependent claims and \$86.00 for one additional independent claims). No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

10/025.105
60130-1201; 01MRA0360

Respectfully Submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.

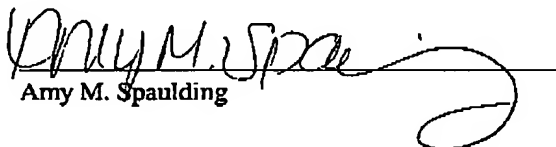


Karin H. Butchko
Registration No. 45,864
Attorneys for Applicant
400 West Maple Road, Suite 350
Birmingham, Michigan 48009
(248) 988-8360

Dated: June 9, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, 703-872-9306 on June 9, 2004.



Amy M. Spaulding

N:\clients\meritor\ip01201\patent\1201response2.doc